

Session 6B: Post-Implementation Monitoring

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The effect of stream restoration projects on sediment, macroinvertebrates and fish in the Manistee River watershed.

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Recent reports have documented the lack of significant monitoring on a large majority of stream restoration projects, leaving project managers with little concrete data to assess project success and/or failure. This has occurred even as more and more monetary resources have been allocated for these types of projects. In 2003, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians received a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Targeted Watershed Initiative grant to implement and monitor water quality restoration in the Big Manistee River watershed. This grant served as an impetus for a large scale partnership that has resulted in over \$1,000,000 funding project planning, restoration implementation and monitoring. The Big Manistee River watershed is composed of approximately 1,780 square miles in northwest Lower Michigan and contains portions of 12 counties and flows through the LRBOI reservation. Restoration efforts have resulted in shifts in fish community, improved macroinvertebrate composition and an increase in coarse sediment.

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